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REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-41 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Erhardt *et al.* (US 6,513,151) in view of Utsumomiya *et al.* (US 6,142,660). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reason. The subject matter of Erhardt *et al.* and the claimed invention are commonly owned, or were subject to an obligation of assignment to Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., at the time the inventions were made. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(c) that forms at least one basis for withdrawal of the rejection in this Office action:

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (e), (f), and or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. 35 U.S.C. §103(c)

Thus, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Erhardt *et al.* is not a citable reference against the invention as claimed. In addition, Utsumomiya *et al.* individually does not make up for the absence of Erhardt *et al.*, let alone the purported combination and, thus, fails to teach or suggest the invention as set forth in the subject claims. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-41 should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

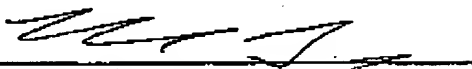
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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